

IDEA 2004 and Early Childhood Transition

IEP TEAM MEETING

Parents Can Invite Part C Personnel to IEP Meeting: (part B, section 614 [d]1 [A] [i] [I] [D] [1] [i] & [ii]) In developing the initial Individual Education Program (IEP) for a child who was previously receiving early intervention services through Part C, parents may request an invitation to the IEP meeting be sent to the Part C service coordinator or others from the Part C program to facilitate the transition process.

PRESCHOOL IEPS

IEP Team To Consider Child's IFSP: (part B, section 614 [d]1 [A] [i] [I] [D] [2]B) The IEP team shall consider the services and information contained in the child's Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) from Part C, and may use the IFSP as the child's IEP if appropriate.

TRANSITION PLANNING TIMEFRAME

Early Conference Option: (part C, section 637, [9] [A] [II]) With parents' consent, the lead agency may initiate a transition planning conference as early as nine months before a child's third birthday. Previous regulations set the earliest possible transition planning conference at six months before the child's third birthday.

EI TO AGE 5 (Kindergarten)

Part C services: (part C, section 635 [c] [1]) New provisions make it possible for states to develop a policy in which parents of young children with disabilities may opt for their children to continue receiving early intervention services under Part C until they are eligible to enter kindergarten or elementary school, rather than attending preschool under section 619. Programs that provide early intervention services to children older than three years of age are required to "include an educational component that promotes school readiness and incorporates pre-literacy, language, and numeracy skills" (part C, section 635 [c] [2]). It is also required that parents receive notification of their rights in choosing between early intervention services and preschool programs (part C, section 635 [c] [2]B [ii] [II]).

Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE): (part C, section 635 [b] [2] [5]B) The state's Part B program is not required to provide FAPE to children whose parents opt to receive early intervention services under Part C rather than preschool special education services.